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5. In late March, the **RED Schwartz** started military training of the combat groups which **included about 150 SED members**, of the 600 employees.
6. On 1 April, the combat groups in the DEFA copying plant in Berlin-Koepenick, including the Johannisthal branch plant, numbered approximately 110 members including 20 women. The number was to be increased to 200 members. The two plants had a total labor force of some 1,200 persons.
7. In early-April, an employee of the VEB Energie in Frankfurt/Oder stated that the organization of combat groups was to start soon and that all male employees were **to join** the combat groups. So far, only party and FDGB functionaries **had agreed** to join the groups.
8. In early April, it was announced at an internal meeting of the Brandenburg **Police** office, that combat groups were to be formed. Training with **model 08 pistols**, **model 98 k carbines** and **model 34 submachine guns** was to be conducted by KVP personnel between 1300 and 1700 hours on **Saturdays** until mid-August 1955.
9. On 8 April, combat groups totaling some 300 men up to 45 years old, who wore blue overalls, blue visor-type caps and red brassards assembled in Bad Salzungen. Members of the security police and the border police were reportedly in charge of training of the combat groups.
10. In early April, the combat groups in Oranienburg were organized into Hundertschaften which were to receive field training by KVP officers once or twice a month. Training in firing and theoretical instruction were to be conducted once a week. Two-week courses for instructors were to be attended exclusively by party members.
11. The strength of the combat groups corresponded with the "Gefahrenklasse" (danger rate) of the plant concerned. The VEB Russ in Oranienburg belonged to Gefahrenklasse I because of an unusual high fire risk and, with a labor force of 110 men, had to organize a combat group of 25 men. The VEB Geraetewerk in Oranienburg, with a labor force of some 300 men, belonged to Gefahrenklasse III and had to form a combat group of 25 men.
12. On 16 April, the combat groups of the Ministry for Heavy Industry had been organized into Hundertschaften and had been trained by police officers for 4 hours.
13. On 19 April, a leading member of the GST at the Humboldt University in East-Berlin announced that it was planned to make it obligatory for all students to join the GST. GST cadres were to be formed prior the beginning of the fall semester.
14. According to GST members in Potsdam, general training concentrated on instruction on model-34 machine guns after early April.

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15. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] military training at universities, high and technical schools, SED schools and schools of other mass organizations should be left to the GST, rather than to newly formed combat groups. GST members were organized in 2 groups: ~~one group of 14 to 17 year old youths and the other of 20 to 30 year olds.~~ In addition to premilitary training, the ~~first group was to concentrate on political indoctrination and the second group on technical instruction.~~ The GST numbered 110,000 members but this number was to be increased to 1,000,000 during 1955.

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16. According to the political bureau of the SED, the GST and the combat groups had the following tasks:
The GST was in charge of premilitary training of Pdj members, as well as youths not belonging to an organization, and subsequently ~~was to induce the young people to join the KVP.~~ The combat groups, ~~additionally, were to transmit basic military knowledge to workers and farmers, so that they may be employed as combat units in case of emergency.~~

17. In April, the combat group of the Rat of the Kreis Potsdam was organized into a Hundertschaft with 3 platoons and received training with carbines, pistols, submachine guns and model-34 machine guns 3 to 4 hours a week. The combat group was subordinate to the SED Kreisleitung.

18. In late April, [redacted] the number of non-SED members in the combat groups was not to exceed 15 percent. 25X1

19. In mid-April, a course for some 500 combat group leaders and subleaders was held at the combat group school in Ludwigsfelde, 15 km south of Berlin. The course was to terminate on 2 May. Other 4-week courses were to follow. The intensive training included instruction on model-98 rifles, model-08 pistols, model-34 and 42 machine guns, training in firing, field training, march practice, tactical training and political indoctrination.

20. In early May, there were several combat group Hundertschaften in the RBD Berlin, which were subdivided into platoons and squads. Transport police was in charge of their training. Between 15 May and 17 June, the transport police was to conduct courses for platoon leaders in the RB recreation center at Bindow near Koenigswusterhausen and for squad leaders in the RB recreation center Basdorf.

21. In early May, it was learned that a "Seesportschule" (naval school) and a "Flugsportschule" (flying school) of the GST were to be established on the Scharmuetzelsee and in Warnemuende, respectively. 25X1

Comment. Since Richard Staimer took over the GST leadership, strong tendencies to increase the number of members and to improve premilitary training were noted. It is apparently planned to train GST members in the individual fields relative to the various branches

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of service in the Soviet forces. Thus, the GST may serve as military reserve. The fact that dismissed KVP members were to serve as GST instructors agrees with directives for the GST issued by the SED political bureau on 4 January 1955. The recruiting for the KVP on the basis of coercion and the intensified premilitary training ~~remain practically compensates for the non-introduction~~ of compulsory **military service.**

The formation of combat groups in all enterprises increases the military potential of the GDR. The combat groups may be employed in case of unrest. They are to include apparently an average of 15 percent of the employees of the individual plants and probably trained by KVP personnel, border police, transport police and security police. [redacted]

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